

SEPTEMBER 2026 DROUGHT & RAINFALL REPORT FOR BOARD

AUGUST 2026 DATA

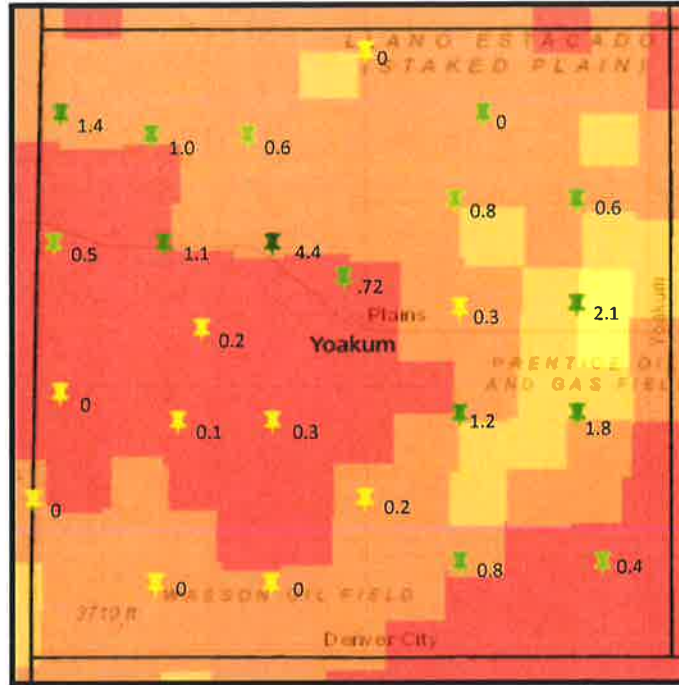
PLAINS MESONET READING : 0.72

DISTRICT AVERAGE: 0.76

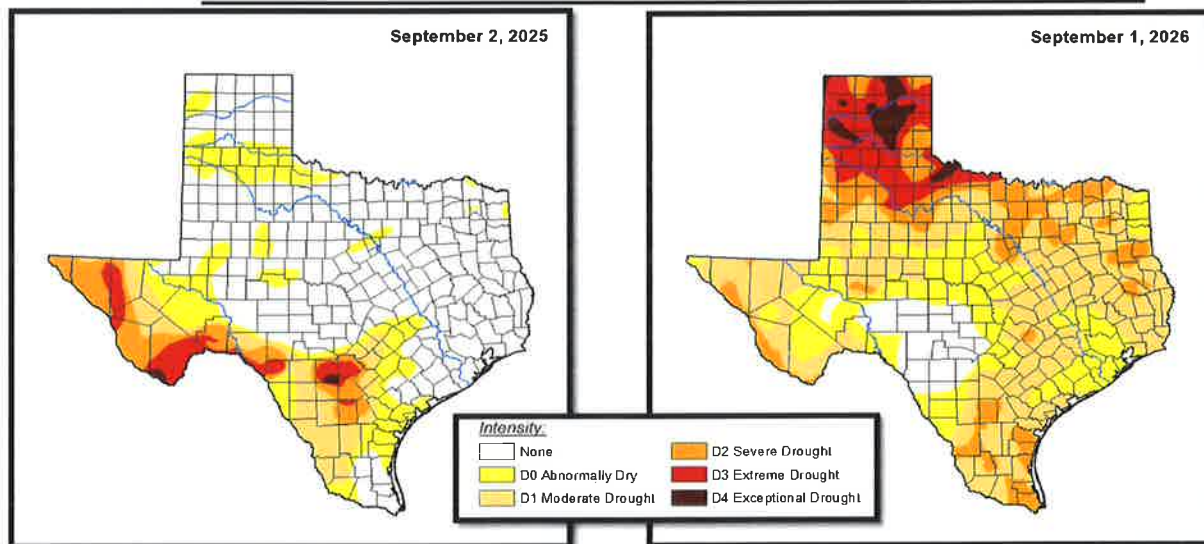
MONTHLY MESONET HISTORICAL AVG (02-26): 1.71

MONTHLY DISTRICT HISTORICAL AVG (02-26): 2.02

575	0	255	0.6
579	0.1	308	4.4
535	0.3	187	0.6
852	0.2	163	1
793	0	167	1.4
832	0	298	0.5
759	0.8	342	1.1
753	0.4	34	0
563	1.8	148	1
568	1.2	371	0.72
432	0.3	420	0.2
1	2.1	673	0.2
265	0.8	714	0



2025 vs 2026 Drought Map Comparison



Yoakum County Precipitation



August 2026 Weather Update

An El Niño Advisory remains in effect and the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated El Niño would continue and strengthen through the end of the year with a 97% chance it would persist through early spring 2027 in their July 9, 2026 diagnostic discussion. Figure 1 below shows the transition from

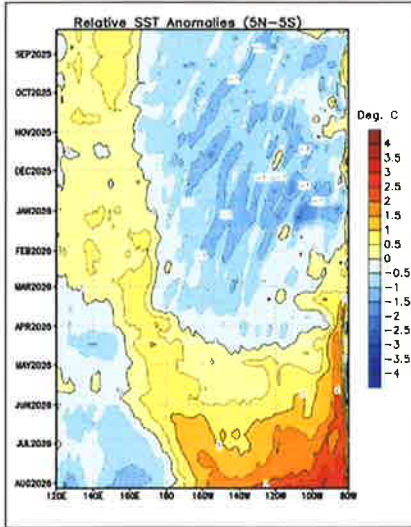


Figure 1: Evolution of equatorial Pacific SST departures (°C) from September 2025 to August 2026.

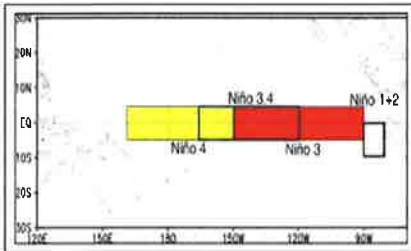


Figure 2: Niño regions.

cooler to warmer temperatures beginning in mid-April. El Niño is declared when temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean are 0.5°C above average for several consecutive months. The current Niño regions (Figure 2) weekly departure from normal are 0.3°C at Niño 4, 1.8°C at Niño 3.4, 2.4°C at Niño 3, and 3.3°C at Niño 1+2.

El Niño is expected to strengthen October through December, and there is an 84% chance of a very strong El Niño according to CPC. Figure 3 shows the July 2026 dynamical and statistical models for sea surface temperatures in the Niño 3.4 region. The red line is the dynamic average and the green is the statistical average. A peak between the two of those would be around 2.5°C. The three strongest El Niño's on record peaked between 2 and 2.5°C. Keep that in

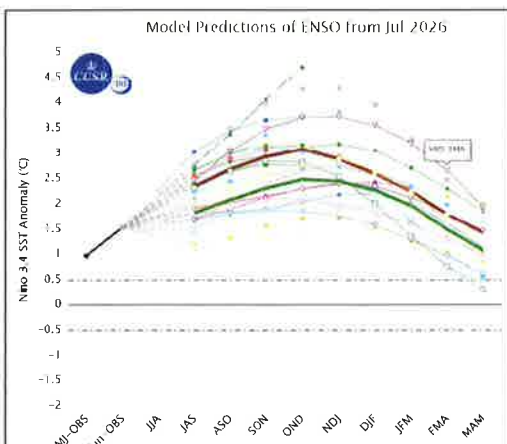


Figure 3: Dynamical and statistical models for SST in the Niño 3.4 for the nine overlapping 3-month periods

mind as you review other sources of information that are only showing the outlier models reaching peaks of over 4°C. El Niño tends to be strongest during the winter months and

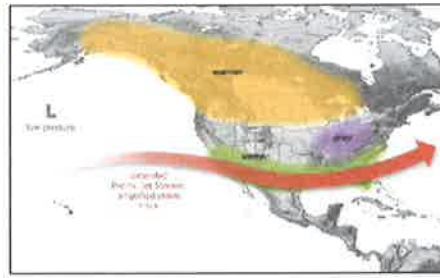


Figure 4: Typical El Niño pattern across U.S.

typically has the most impact during the northern hemispheres' winter. Figures 4 shows the typical El Niño winter with the Pacific jet stream shifted southward across the southern tier of the U.S. which should help increase rain and snow chances.

Temperatures continued to run warm in July with all sites reporting above the normal average temperatures which ranged from 0.4°F warmer at Brownfield to 3.7°F warmer at

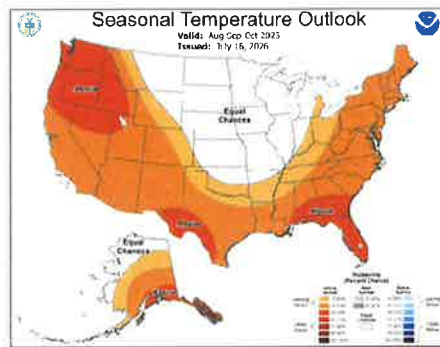


Figure 5: NOAA seasonal temperature outlook.

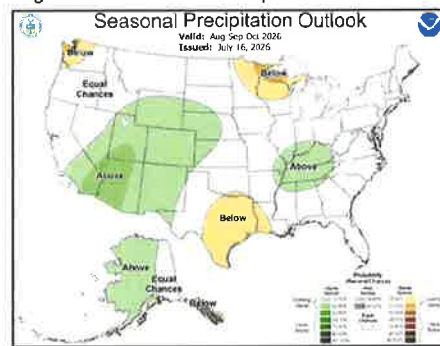


Figure 6: NOAA seasonal precipitation outlook.

Plains NWS. Warmer temperatures are forecasted to stay around with August forecasted above normal as well as the seasonal temperature outlook for August, September, and October. (Figure 5) Precipitation was below normal at all sites during July. Rainfall received ranged from 0.19 inches at Leveland NWS to 1.72 inches at Dever City NWS. (Full chart is on the back.) August's forecast remains slightly below average while the seasonal precipitation outlook (Figure 6) keeps the area in equal chances at below or above. Low precipitation and high temperatures are the result of a dominate upper level high pressure that has remained over the southwestern U.S. Models do indicate a slight shift to the east next week, but then it will return to the southwest for the remainder of the month.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map of Texas is very similar to last month across the majority of the state with the exception of the Panhandle. The Panhandle saw the area of extreme drought increase as well as a small area of exceptional drought form in Gray and Carson counties. The southeast portion of Yoakum County decreased from moderate drought to abnormally dry with the remained of the county remaining in moderate drought. (Full August 4, 2026 U.S. Drought Monitor map on the back.)

